

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR Newspaper

Obama 'Barocks' Nation

Colleges Score with Measure J

BY SARAH KNOWLES
OPINION EDITOR

Los Angeles voters approved Measure J, which will provide the Los Angeles Community College District with a \$3.5 billion bond that will fund new construction projects throughout the district.

SmartVoter.org reported that as of 8:06 p.m. Tuesday, 63 percent voted in favor of the measure, while 37 percent voted against it.

"Measure J will provide the funds needed to finish the complete transformation of Valley College," said school President Sue Carleo. "We will be able to build at least three more buildings, focusing on media and technology and employer

"Measure J will provide the funds needed to finish the complete transformation of Valley College."

- Sue Carleo
Valley College President

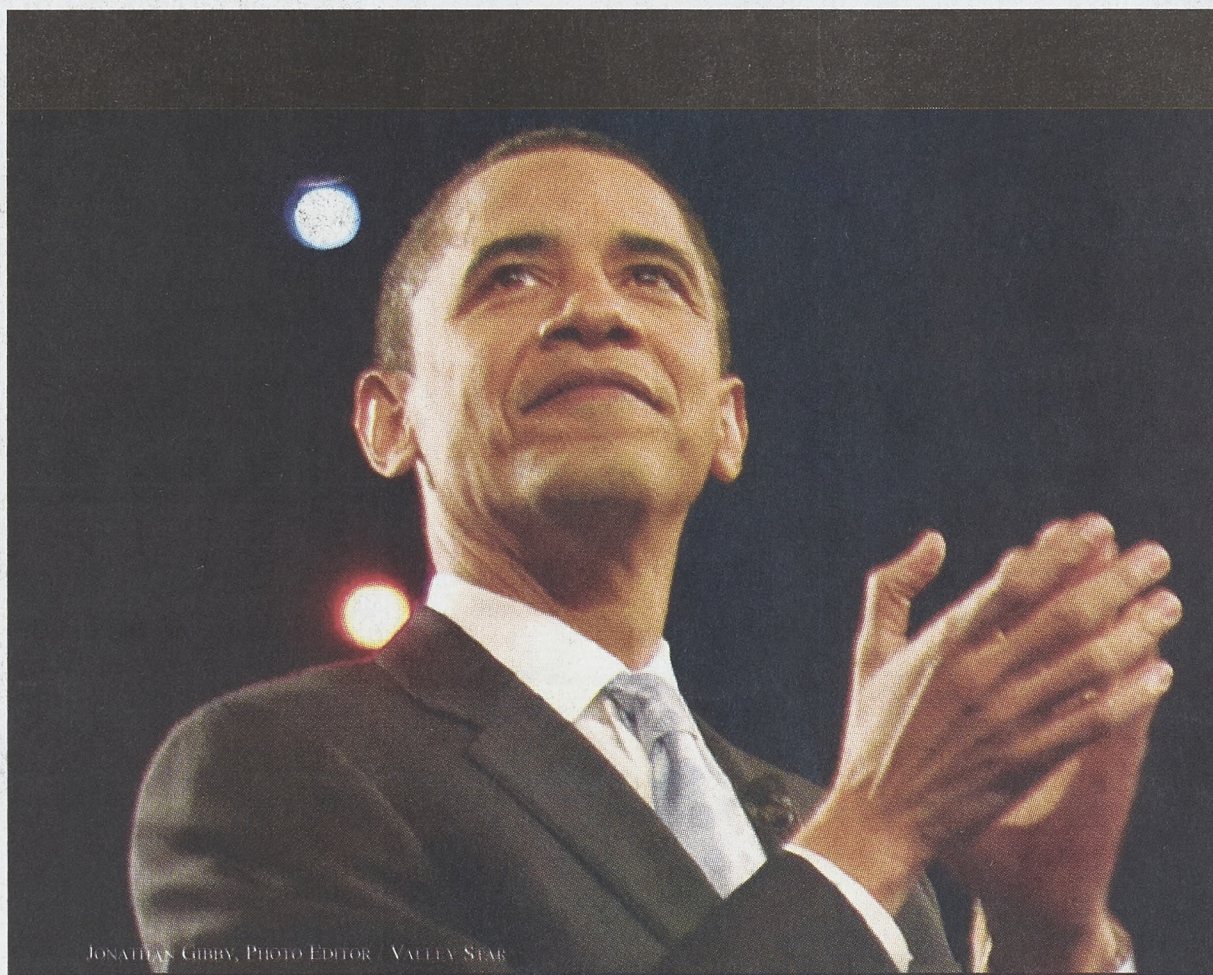
training needs."

The countywide measure will aid Valley in constructing a Media Arts Building, Work Force Development Center, athletic training facility and a multi-purpose community service center. It will also provide funds for the construction of a much needed parking structure and the renovation of the cafeteria and bookstore. Business Technology and Environmental centers are also in the works. Rather than increase the current \$17 in homeowner taxes, the measure will see the \$17 contribution by homeowners last for an extra decade.

"It's good," said student Jesse Beancort. "The bungalows are nasty and need

see *Measure J* page 2

A CHANGE HAS COME



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

■ After 22 months of campaigning, a record number of electors across the nation cast their vote and chose the first African-American for president.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With Ohio and Pennsylvania called early in the evening and the state of California called at 8 p.m., Senator Barack Obama of Illinois will become the 44th president of the United States of America.

The victory makes Obama the first black man to become president.

"If there is anyone out there who doubts that America is a place where anything is possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," said Obama during his victory speech in Chicago.

Obama's totals, as of press time, were 338 electoral college votes, 68 more than is needed to be named president. McCain gathered 156. According to projections by both ABC and MSNBC, Barack Obama won the Northeast, the Great Lake states, as well as the battleground states of Iowa, New Mexico, Colorado, Florida and Nevada.

John McCain gave a gracious concession speech in front of supporters in Phoenix, Arizona shortly after 8:15 p.m., and expressed his regret that Obama's grandmother, who passed away Sunday, was not able to witness his success.

"In a contest as long and as difficult as this campaign has

see *Results* page 2

Voters Face Election Day Obstacles at the Polls

BY ANDY ALCARAZ
STAFF WRITER

Voters turned out in record numbers and so did voting problems. On a day that saw one of the most historic elections in America's history with Senator Barack Obama winning the Presidency, many poll officials experienced the problems resulting from such a turnout.

"In 2004 we didn't see this kind of turnout," said Kyle Nudo, an election worker at the Valley Help Center polling place. "[Today] was more frantic. I think people were more anxious."

Throughout the San Fernando Valley, precincts providing polling for eager voters taking part in the elections and deciding the state propositions and county measures were inundated with problems. These included voting machine breakdowns, ink

pens going out, voter address confusion, missing pages in the master street index, protestors illegally electioneering and provisional ballot misunderstandings.

"The first 200 ballots were inserted when the machine was not working. We had to do them the old-fashioned way," said polling place inspector Freda Choy, citing a laundry list of problems at the Church of the Nazarene in Panorama City. "There were provisional ballots that went in the box without pink envelopes, two volunteers didn't show up and the street index is missing pages and the machine didn't start working until ten in the morning."

A result of the machine breaking down was over 230 votes not being recorded and having to be counted at the end of the night. Also, there were a handful of provisional ballots that were going to have to be weeded out among the hundreds not recorded due to the missing pink envelopes. The problems at the church that started early Tuesday morning and continued well into the afternoon were seen as a lack of communication and a fundamental breakdown according to Choy.

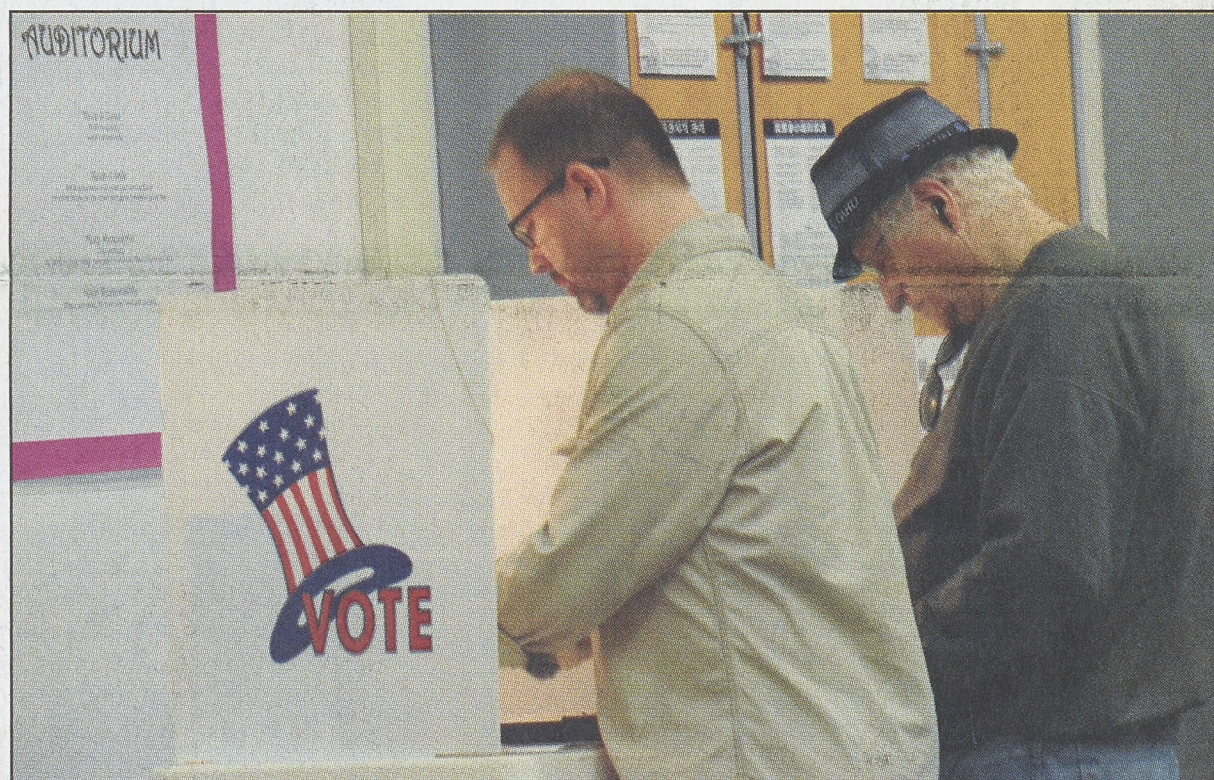
"The coordinator should have known about provisionals," said Choy. "They should have had training. They should remember it."

Around other parts of the Valley, less internalized problems occurred. Each polling place has notices posted about the illegality of electioneering, yet at some polls those laws were ignored.

"There was a man hanging Proposition 8 signs around the polling area less than 100 feet away," said Nabil Elmasry, a Polling Inspector in North Hills. "He left after I told him that the police would be informed."

The notice states that there

see *Problems* page 2



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

GET OUT THE VOTE - Los Angeles County voters smash previous voter turnout records with more than 82 percent of eligible voters casting ballots.

Voters Go to Polls in Record Numbers

■ Los Angeles County voters turned out in record numbers to cast their ballots in a historic election.

BY SHARON HARDWICK AND JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITERS

Steady streams of young and old voters, propelled by a sense of urgency and purpose, headed into polling stations around the San Fernando Valley on Election Day with a feeling that, at least in this election year, their vote counts.

Young voters have been a driving force behind this year's election campaigns. Both Barack Obama's and John McCain's campaigns organized grass-roots efforts to encourage Generation Next to participate in the democratic process.

In his victory speech Tuesday night, Obama said he "grew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep."

"I turned 18 and wanted to be a part of history," said Kristal Smith, who had just cast her first ballot at a polling station on Burbank Blvd. "This is the first time a black man has run [and won the nomination] for president. There is a sense of urgency that I don't know has been there in the past years. I want young people to know they can make a difference."

As of 10 p.m., Los Angeles County set its own record. According to the Los Angeles Times, more than 82 percent of Los Angeles County's registered voters cast ballots. Officials forecasted record national voter turnout rates of 80 percent, which,

according to USA Today, would surpass voter turnout from the 1960 election when John Kennedy ran against Richard Nixon.

"[During] the primaries we had about five, six months ago, we had 118 people vote," said Roberta Paulsen, polling inspector for U.S. Grant High School's precinct. "We are up about 90 percent and we have over 1,600 people registered in this precinct. So, if we get 80 percent of the registered voters, we should get about 900 people voting, which would be wonderful, which is a shocker." By 2 p.m., 500 people had voted in this precinct.

Voters had a lot of things on their minds this election year, with some issues like the economy weighing more heavily than others. According to National Public Radio, 62 percent of voters who responded to exit polls ranked the economy as their biggest concern.

"I think because of the economy, everybody has decided that...we better wake up and do something about this," said Paulsen. "The only way to do something about it, [because] complaining doesn't do it, [is] you've got to vote. Maybe this is a wake-up call, which is great."

Of the two candidates, Barack Obama was the front-runner in using modern technology to his advantage. He utilized new media outlets such as YouTube, Facebook and text messaging to his advantage. Some credit Obama's use of new media for the record-breaking \$650 million he raised over the course of his campaign.

"[These technologies] appeal to a younger audience," said Stillman White, a Valley College student. "So people who don't use those technologies as much don't know. It's been all about getting more college kids and young people who use this [type of new media] to participate."

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SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
ASTRID SEIPELT

PHOTO EDITOR
JONATHAN GIBBY

MANAGING EDITOR
JOSH SPENCE

NEWS EDITOR
KRISTEN BECKER

OPINION EDITOR
SARAH KNOWLES

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
SCOTT MITCHELL

STAFF WRITERS
ANDY ALCARAZ
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H. GORE
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SASHA SANTACRUZ
BRAD TAYLOR

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
JOHN CAMARENA
ANA ROSA MURILLO

ADVERTISING MANAGER
CHIP RUDOLPH

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

thevalleystar@yahoo.com
www.lavalleystar.com
(818) 947-2576

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‘Measure J’

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work.”

Academic Senate member and Building User Group leader of the new Allied Health Building Donald Garseye believes the funds will be invaluable to the upcoming building plans at Valley.

“Things are turning around with the Allied Health Building thanks to Jim Rogers,” he said. “The measure will be great, we have a lot of things planned.”

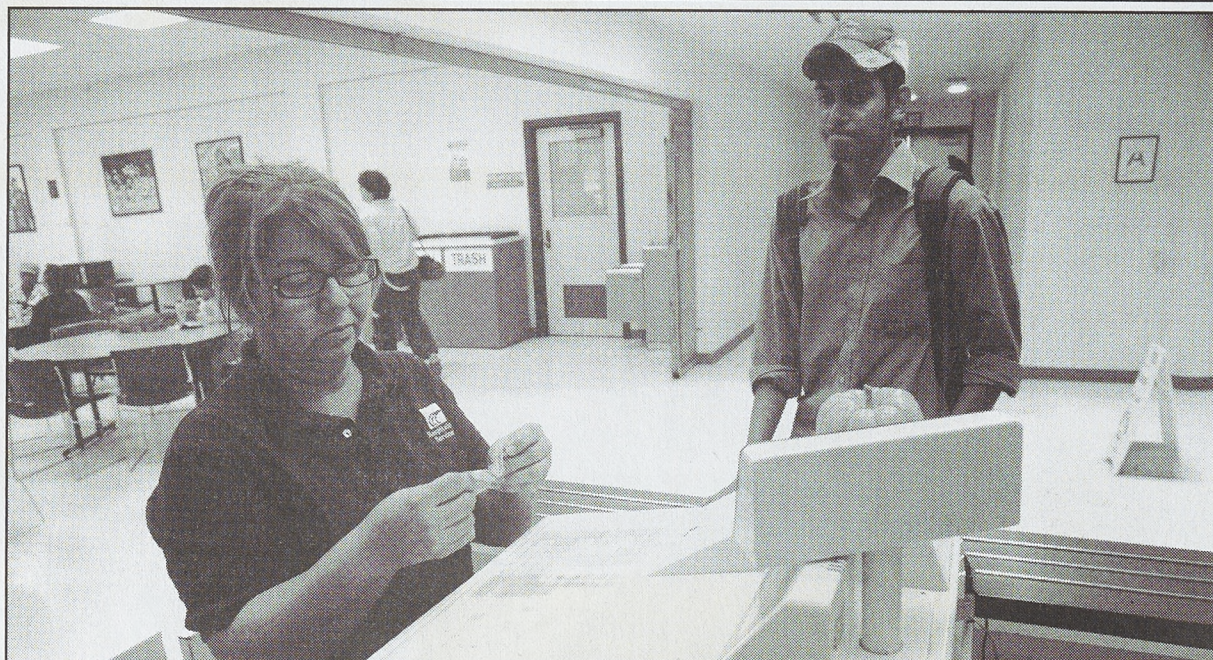
Although the bond will not increase taxes, opponents of the measure said that during such unstable economic times, when homeowners are fumbling for ways to save money, the timing is wrong. In a recent editorial, the Los Angeles Daily News said that the building boom should only continue once economic skies begin to clear.

United Research Services Leader Jim Rogers believes the bond will help to rebuild the campus although Valley is more competent than some may think.

“In terms of dollars, it will be a significant help,” said Rogers. “...but the college has done well with its current resources.”

Rogers believes that the future is now brighter than ever here at Valley and the winter months will not slow down construction.

“The student services building begins in December and we begin on the library in February, so it’s an exciting time.”



CAFETERIA BLUES-A Valley College student frowns as he waits for change at the cafeteria cash register. Some students have complained about being overcharged for items.

Cafeteria Leaves Students’ Pockets Empty

BY SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

Like a broken record, students’ complaints about high prices and poor quality in Valley College’s cafeteria is music to no one’s ears. With no other options for prepared and hot food on campus, many students are forced to either leave school to get their grub or stay and pay the higher prices.

“At this point, the cafeteria is taking advantage of the students,” said ASU President Josh Wible. “The cafeteria has no competition and that’s a model that just doesn’t work. The food is terrible. The quality is horrendous. It’s just not right.”

A whole sandwich from The Cutting Board will run a student \$4.75, without tax. Add-ons, which at a sandwich shop like Subway come standard, are priced extra: \$0.50 for bell peppers, pickles and cucumbers. A large slice of cheese pizza is \$3.00, compared to \$2.50 for a 16” slice, complete with two regular toppings, from local favorite Joe Peeps.

Issues surrounding price and quality are now old news for the cafeteria.

In 2005, working with vendor Hot Stuff Foods, the cafeteria suffered losses of over \$600,000. The school administration turned things over to a temporary vendor, Deli, Depot and More, in early 2006.

Although the company introduced the use of credit card machines in the cafeteria, and even managed to turn a small profit, the Cadillac Grill was brought in to replace them once their 10-month contract expired. The Cadillac Grill, however, suffered the same fate as its predecessors and was shut down in the spring of 2007.

Now Integrated Support Solutions Inc. (ISSI), the cafeteria’s fourth vendor since 2005, runs things behind the counters. Robert Frank, vice president of contract operations said they are doing their best to provide quality food at decent prices. With national food costs rising, however, Frank admits it’s not an easy task.

“We work on a tight margin,” Frank explained. “Since the beginning of the year, I’ve seen [food] prices go up twice, up 12% and 13%. It’s unfortunate, but we had to pass that additional cost to the consumer.”

This need is costing the cafeteria. Students are buying their food elsewhere and use the cafeteria simply to eat the food they buy off campus.

“The prices are too high,” said Darren Rosborough, a Valley student who sat at a cafeteria table eating his Subway sub, drink and chips. “I [just] go somewhere else to get something better, something cheaper.”

When confronted with the news that some students were complaining of overcharging at the register, Frank said he had heard nothing about it.

“The [cash register] machine adds the tax,” explains Frank. “A sandwich is \$4.75, but with tax it comes to \$5.14. The menu price, like any other food establishment, does not include tax. If someone brings [being overcharged] to our attention, we will take care of it. We don’t want unhappy customers.”

However Kasey Hill, a bookstore employee, is an unhappy customer. Hill believes she was overcharged after purchasing two breakfast burritos from the cafeteria on Sept. 8 2008.

According to Hill, when she requested a receipt and questioned the cashier about the price discrepancy, the cashier said she pushed a key two times and didn’t know why Hill had been overcharged. Hill believed that the prices in the register were different from the prices posted to the public and has written two emails to cafeteria management complaining. She is still waiting for a response.

In an effort to gather feedback from students, ISSI placed yellow comment cards by the registers. Of the 110 cards handed in, more than half gave positive feedback with little mention of high prices, and no mention of overcharging.

According to a couple students, cafeteria staff were encouraging favorable responses by offering free food. “If you drew a smiley face,” said student Ani Ognasyan, “they gave you a brownie.”

The ASU will put together a survey to rate the cafeteria and provide feedback that will not go to ISSI, but to Valley administration. The survey will include questions about cafeteria pricing, quality and service.

‘Results’

continued from page 1

been, his success alone commands my respect for his ability and perseverance, that he managed to do so by inspiring the hopes of millions of Americans,” said McCain. “...Though we fell short, the failure is mine, not yours.”

Andrea Barrera, president of the Valley chapter of Democracy Matters, spent the evening on campus watching the results, and expressed a sense of relief that the election is over.

“...I’m kinda bummed that it was just the projected winner. They called it within a minute of the polls closing on the west coast,” said Barrera. “I’m just happy that it’s all over and I feel confident with Barack Obama as president.”

Political Science professor Anthony O’Regan called attention to the other races occurring across the nation, with many congressional, gubernatorial and House of Representative seats up for decision. Along with Obama’s big win, at press time, the Democrats picked up five seats in the Senate and 11 seats in the House of Representatives. This gives the Democrats 56 seats in the Senate and 233 in the House, to the Republicans 40 and 146 respectively.

“People are not paying enough attention to the congressional races tonight. The early returns that are in right now, Democrats are going to pick up a lot of seats in the house and the senate,” said O’Regan. “And if Obama takes the White House...We’re going to have the greatest degree of control by one political party in this country since 1938.”

Californians also voted on 12 propositions at the polls, and as of 9.45 p.m., Proposition 2 for Standards for Confining Farm Animals had a yes vote at 62 percent, and Proposition 4, for the Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of A Minor’s Pregnancy had a no vote at 51 percent. Proposition 8, which eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry, had a yes vote of 54 percent.

News of Obama’s victory quickly spread around the world, with Valley student Marcellus Richardson, a business major, receiving a text message from Duwane Hamblin, a sergeant serving in the military in Iraq.

“This makes the sand a little sweeter,” said Hamblin.

‘Problems’

continued from page 1

can be no signs hung about ballot voting, no endorsing of any issues or candidates, or talking to voters about anything to be voted on within 100 feet of a polling place. Still, some voters took the electioneering as a very serious violation of their voting rights.

“We have had some people come in that are a little anxious about the folks outside,” said Nudo. “We had one gentleman that happened to be on the opposite side of [the electioneers] issue and he was fairly irate. Cursing and mistakingly quoting the law he was so upset that he left without voting at all.”

The polls in California closed at 8 p.m. and despite many of the problems that took place, a mostly positive mood surrounded all of the polling areas.

“I think they are taking their vote very seriously and they are very interested in this election,” said Nudo. “People are very

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Awkward Conversation Awaits us Post Election

■ The election may be over, but worrying time begins as we scramble to think of something else to talk about.

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

Over the past two years our lives have been filled with politics. It's been the go-to conversation piece at your dinner parties, taken over your television sets and we loved every minute of it. In fact, it's hard to remember what life was like before the election process began and tough to think of what we'll talk about now that the election is over.

"I don't think much will change," said nursing major Jeimy Morales. "I suppose I won't pay as much attention to news."

A difference you may notice and welcome is that your inboxes will no longer be stuffed with political e-mails, making fun of the candidates or preaching a political stance. MoveOn.org will go back to being just another left wing Web site, and you actually may like them more because they won't be asking for donations three times a day.

The news will cover the "less substantial" occurrences such as 7-11 robberies and high-speed chases. That's right small time thieves, your long awaited time to shine has returned. Uncover your white Ford Bronco, climb on in and book it!

Remember our current president, George W. Bush? After having it very easy over the past year, he will once again be in the spotlight and the butt of all jokes. Sorry, Dubya, but it's time to look busy again.

Saturday Night Live will go back to being mediocre the moment their political material dries up. The cast, who have had limitless jokes to pick from over the presidential race will have to return to doing skits which take a 30 second joke and stretch it to a painful three minutes.

Americans can stop pretending to be politically aware, and when the new president takes office on Jan. 20, so can President Bush. We will be

able to focus our attention on the important events. You know, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's, and the Super Bowl. Who has time to worry about the state of the union when the Los Angeles Lakers are playing the Boston Celtics?

For those of you with campaign bumper stickers on your cars, may I suggest investing in some rubbing alcohol to get those pesky things off. Perhaps a new sticker with a quote from Gandhi or Bob Marley would fit well over the existing 'McCain-Palin '08.' Those never seem to go out of style.

"I don't think much will change. I suppose I won't pay as much attention to the news."

-Jeimy Morales

Americans will be able to go back to liking or simply ignoring Alaska - you know, that state with the great view of Russia.

Finally, when you strike an awkward silence in a conversation, you can bypass, "So, what did you think of the debate last night?" and go straight to, "Anyone else hear that we're supposed to be getting some rain tomorrow?"

One thing that will not change is, despite the outcome, this has been one of the most exciting and unpredictable elections in the history of our nation. I will not say we have come as far as being able to look past characteristics such as race, gender, age and vote strictly on the person and their beliefs. There is a part of this nation that has, and can do this, but there is still a part that refuses. There is no denying that we have come a long way; and the fact that an African American man is a viable candidate for president and a woman is the Republican vice presidential candidate, is proof enough.



ILLUSTRATION / EDUARDO HERRERA / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Thank Goodness it's All Over

■ As election fever begins to cool down, it's time to be thankful it's all finally over and done with.

BY SARAH KNOWLES
OPINION EDITOR

The weather has turned cold and thanksgiving family arguments are just weeks away, but there is still one thing to smile about - after two years of talk, complete media invasion and of course, those endless Valley College 'register to vote' rallies, the election is over.

While Valley may have seemed the place to be to get on with some work during the election, students were forced to listen to student do-gooders at various club days, urging them to vote. Biased opinions were thrown in many people's faces if they didn't show some interest in the register to vote cam-

paigners.

"I tried to ignore them," said one anonymous student in regards to the rallying by some students in Monarch Square. "They were kind of patronizing, they didn't know whether I was registered to vote or not, but shouted as if I had no idea about politics just because I chose to walk without speaking to them."

Throughout the campaign, many mistakes, such as Barack Obama's "57 states" and Sarah Palin's dreadful interviews were made. While most would presume this would be bad for the candidate, it ended up being worse for us, as we watched each channel replay the clip throughout the following

day, before the next mistake or name-calling contest took place.

Pre-election, many students tuned in to the TV after school, to relax before starting homework. While all major TV channels broadcasted election coverage Tuesday, this wasn't the only coverage the media chose to show during voting season. From the latest mudslinging match to a candidates' sense of style, the same channels reported on everything associated with the politician's personal lives and dress sense. Homework seemed like the best place to be after all.

Many Valley students work, but throughout the past few months, all workplace gossip has been focused on the latest media frenzy. Palin

and her child's child, to Obama's middle name and terrorists, there was no escape. Work, leisure and school time was bombarded with propaganda and every political issue imaginable.

Many of us will now be concentrating on what the new president will do for us, or more importantly, which promises he will break. However, there are many of us who are just happy to see our TV screens back to blasting Lindsay's lesbian love affair or hours at work complaining about our newest colleague. Perhaps the only annoyance that won't disappear is Valley's do-gooders, who are off planning their next way of guilt tripping the campus.

CAMPUS VIEW:

Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo/Valley Star

What will you talk about now?



"I think we'll be talking about the economy and how the new president will handle it. Things are so expensive so that will still be important."

-Brian Hurt
undecided



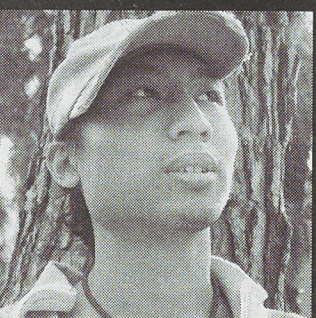
"There's the sitting duck period I guess. We'll still be talking about politics and what the new president will be concentrating on."

-Federson Rapinan
nursing



"I don't dig gossip, we'll still be talking about the election and the issues. I hope that the president follows through on his promises and that will be our topic."

-Jodi Herstine
zoology



"We're college students so we want to have fun. Once the election is over only a few of us will care about certain propositions that affect us."

-Kris Ramos
radio technology

"Watch" and Learn

■ Movie fans suffer as Fox tries to deny 'Watchmen' release.

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Who will be watching Warner Brothers film 'The Watchmen' next summer? Maybe no one if Fox wins a lawsuit to block its release, and fans are the ones who will lose.

The best-selling comic graphic novel 'Watchmen,' which sold 200,000 copies in July alone, is often listed as a pop-culture milestone. The 1986 series was a morality tale which showed superheroes in a very real and flawed light. Written by famed comic scribe Alan Moore, the comic elevated the medium and fans became rabid over the idea of a film version.

"The timing is especially bad, it isn't like they had no idea Warner was making the movie for months."

-Daniel Gutierrez

Millions of movie-goers were teased last summer when they saw the amazing trailer for 'The Watchmen' before 'The Dark Knight.' Even those unfamiliar with the series were excited about Zack Snyder's ("300") take on a comic book film, but now Fox Studios are playing the supervillain as they try to rob us of this power house film.

"It seems childish for Fox to be doing this," said Valley College media arts student Daniel Gutierrez. "The timing is especially bad, it isn't like they had no idea Warner was making the movie for months."

As a self-proclaimed comic nerd, this news is very troubling. Fox wants no money for lost profits, it simply wants the film to be pulled.

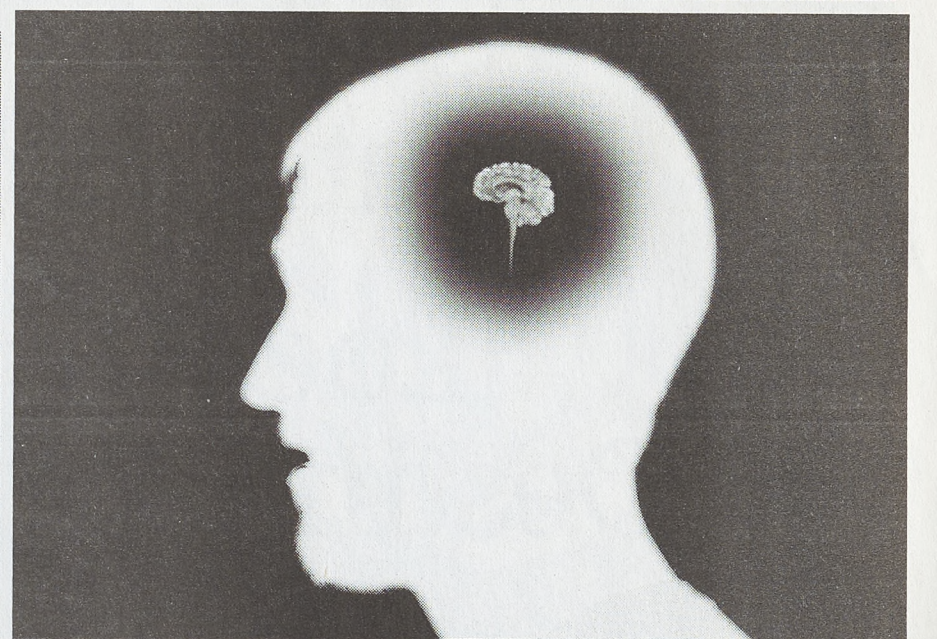
After the off the chart success of 'The Dark Knight,' which according to boxofficemojo.com is now the second highest grossing film in history, studios are scrambling to get the next big property. What Fox may see as a smart move seems desperate and insulting.

Fox claims that it never ceded its right to the property which it acquired in 1994, and the company is now attempting to keep Warner Brothers from ever releasing their film. Fox claims they spent over \$1 million in development, although they never explain why they never tried to make the film or why they waited until WB finished their version before filing suit.

Fox has 'The X-Men,' its own hero franchise, set to release a solo Wolverine film next summer, and already the fan backlash has hit this project. As reported in the Sept. 3 issue of 'Entertainment Weekly,' cyber-geeks have threatened to pirate the Wolverine film and release it over the Internet to take away box office receipts.

If Fox wins the suit, there will be no winners. Perhaps the studios could reach a compromise; it is obvious Fox wants something more. Warner Brothers could offer up the DVD rights to 'The Batman' TV series of the 1960s which Fox produced, but WB owns the character Batman. The two companies have been in a stalemate over who has the rights to release the series on home video.

'The Watchmen' promises to give audiences a realistic look into the world behind the mask, but real-world business may keep the film grounded if both companies can't be the real heroes.



PHOTOILLUSTRATION / JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Please, Not so Common

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Common sense is something that we all learn as children, from both our parents and our peers. We know from a young age not to touch something that is hot, not to approach strangers, and to look both ways when crossing the road. But it seems that as we get older and cross the magical line into adulthood, all good reason flies out the window.

If you need an illustration of the lack of common sense in the community today, look at the intersection of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. Not 300 feet from a fire station, it is a common sight to see the red engines of the Los Angeles Fire Department go roaring past on the way to their latest mission. But, what is also just as frequent are people running in front of these engines in an effort to beat them across the street, or worse, see cars speeding up to cross the junction.

Actions like this show not just a lack of common sense, but sheer stupidity. Those flashing red and white lights and screaming sirens are not an invitation to

play chicken with a few tons of metal barreling down Burbank, not to mention that the firefighters inside of it could be on their way to save someone you know.

A lack of initiative has also crept its way onto school grounds and into the classroom. Everyone has had the experience of sitting in a lecture where there is a student who never listens when the professor is speaking, and proceeds to ask every obvious question in the book right after they finish. It's quite a novel idea, this common sense; taking responsibility for your own learning and not wasting everyone's time.

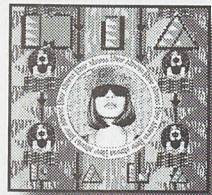
"People go through the world with a bubble around them," said student Kalem Ginsberg, who works in the admissions building on campus. "They don't see three inches past their face. Why would you ask me obvious questions when the answer is right in front of you?"

Adults all over need to act like the grown ups and start taking responsibility and doing what is right. It's a little embarrassing when the children know the right way to act before their parents do. And after all, who wants to live in a world where common sense isn't so common?

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:

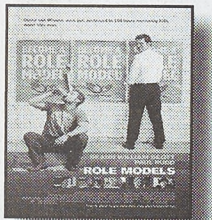
M.I.A.
KALA

OTHER RELEASES:

Brad Paisley, *Play*
Hinder, *Take it to the Limit*
Shiny Toy Guns, *Season of Poison*
Vanilla Ice, *Vanilla Ice is Back!!!*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



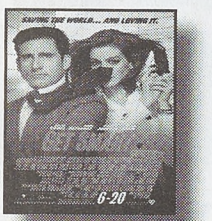
ROLE
MODELS,
PAUL RUDD,
SEANN WILLIAM
SCOTT

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Madagascar 2: Escape 2 Africa
Soul Men
House

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



GET SMART
Steve Carrell
Anne Hathaway

OTHER RELEASES:

Transsiberian
What We Do Is Secret

Think Transfer!

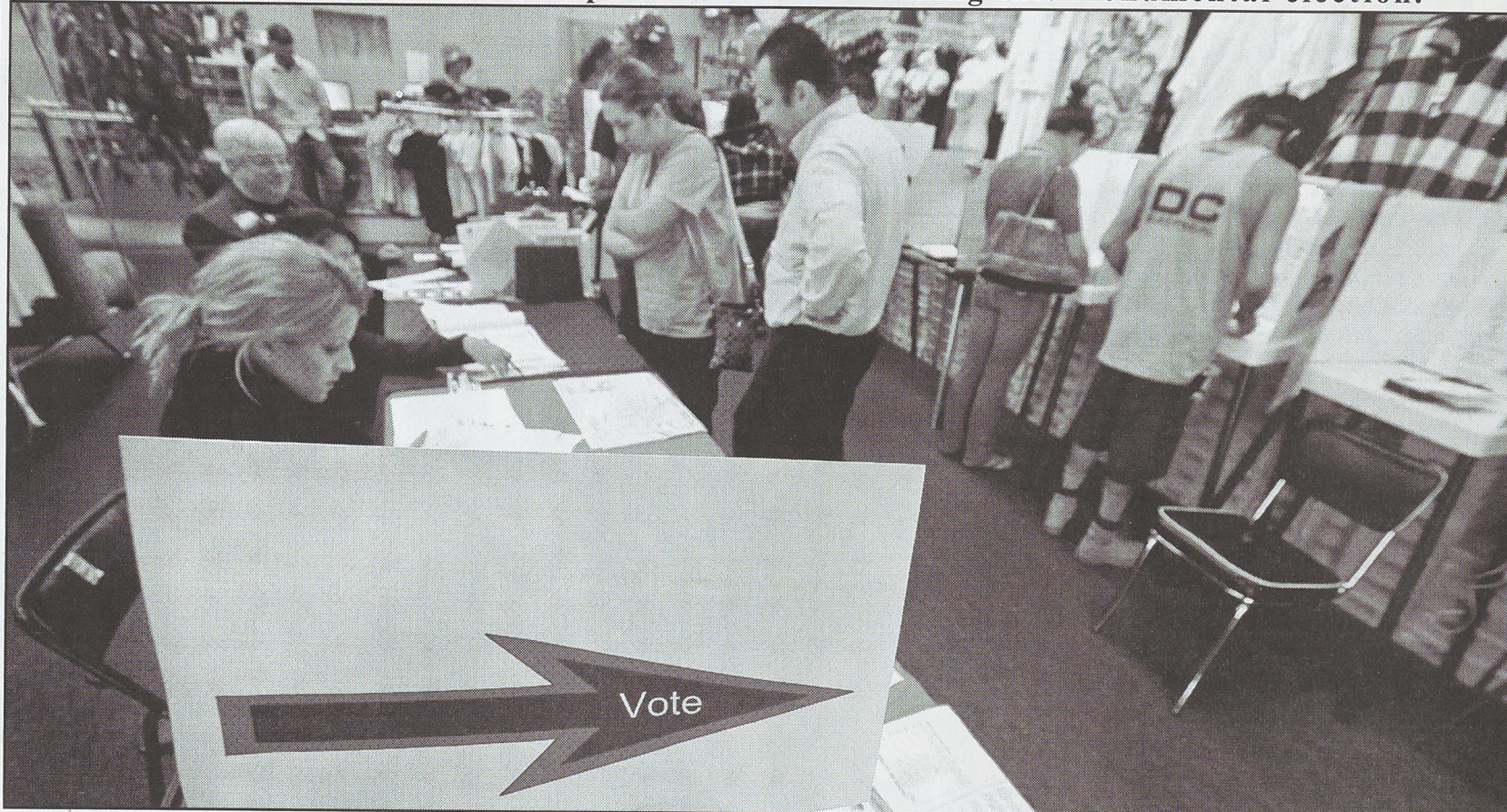
Wednesday, Nov. 5
How to Transfer Workshop 1p.m.-2p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30p.m.-6:30p.m.

Thursday, November 6
USC Rep 10a.m.-1p.m.
USC Admissions Workshop 1p.m.-2p.m. FL 102
Undecided Major/Career workshop 1p.m.-2p.m.

Election 2008

Punching Holes For A Change

■ Staff writer casts her first time presidential vote during this monumental election.



KLARA MILLER / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A FASHIONABLE PLACE TO VOTE - Citizens of North Hollywood cast their votes at the Bliss Boutique clothing shop Tuesday.

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER

Walking up to my assigned polling place at the Bliss Boutique, located on Laurel Canyon Avenue, I felt neither excitement nor passion in casting my first vote in a presidential election. As a Clinton supporter, my political suspense came to a halt on June 7 when she endorsed Barack Obama.

Awaiting me at the door, were no long lines filled with annoyed voters, waiting to vote. Instead red, white, and blue balloons arched the doorway and an American flag waved in the wind.

I felt the same sentiment as Valley College student Jun Lindo. This also being his first presidential election, he raced over to the polling place to cast his vote before rushing back off to Glendale to study, more out of obligation than desire.

"I wasn't really going to vote this time because I'm against the war and everything," said Lindo. "I like

peace and quiet and I don't like the Bush administration right now ... I hate that we spend those millions-billions of money out there for nothing," Lindo said. "But I got to do it anyways."

Decked out in a tuxedo t-shirt, 60-year-old Michael Brodie energetically illustrated the ink voting process and then handed me my ballot. There was no excitement as I stepped inside my cardboard booth. Only four other individuals stood beside me, even though up to eight could vote at a time. The statewide initiatives, especially propositions 4 and 8, meant more to me than voting for the president. Running on automatic, I punched out my opinions and slipped my ballot in the holding box, smiling extra hard as I asked for two "I Voted" stickers.

Afterwards while talking to Brodie over his experiences as an election worker, he informed me that he has been volunteering every election day since 1984. He said statewide issues were the most important for

voters.

"Probably in your lifetime the most important thing is probably going to be local ... people who fail to vote in local elections city and county are probably hurt themselves more," Brodie said. "I'm not saying a president can't screw things up but the fact is the potholes are fixed by the city, that's important."

Milling around talking to other voters I listened to all the reasons why every American should vote. I reluctantly understood the impact of my actions, not nation or statewide but for myself.

It does not matter whom I voted for or whether or not I wanted to. But just like Lindo, the issues still mattered and when my duty called, I answered. Walking back to my house with two "I voted" stickers on my chest, I'll admit to feeling pride in letting my voice be heard, no matter who wins or what passes. Ultimately, as an American, I exercised my right and now all I have left is hope.

TOP 5
STORIES

@ L.AVALLEYSTAR.COM

Voters Defy Traditional Stereotypes
By Jesse Richardson

Barack Obama For U.S. President
Staff Editorial

All The Manny in the World
By Joe LaFleur

Brolin Shines, Stone Misses The Mark In W.
By Brad Taylor

It's Not East Being Green
By Andy Alcaraz

WHAT'S
NEW

@ L.AVALLEYSTAR.COM

On Tour With Scott Mitchell
By Scott Mitchell

NFL Week 10
By H.Gore

Dia De Los Muertos
By Lauren Lees

LAVC
EVENTS

Wednesday, November 5

Canned Food Drive @ (Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore) Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

Allied Health & Sciences Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony @ 11 a.m. (Allied Health & Sciences Patio) - Contact: LAVC President's Office (818) 947-2321

"Untidy: the Worlds of Doug Harvey" Exhibition @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery) Contact: (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

LACCD Board of Trustees Meeting - Public Session @ 3:30 p.m. (Monarch Hall) Contact: President's Office (818) 947-2321

Thursday, November 6

Canned Food Drive @ Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

"Untidy: the Worlds of Doug Harvey" Exhibition @ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery) Contact: (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Friday, November 7

Canned Food Drive @ (Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore) Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Monarch Square) Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

Women's Soccer Home Game (LAVC vs. Santa Monica College) @ 4 pm (Monarch Stadium); Free Contact: Chuck Ferrero (818) 947-2508 <http://www.lavc.edu/athletics.htm>

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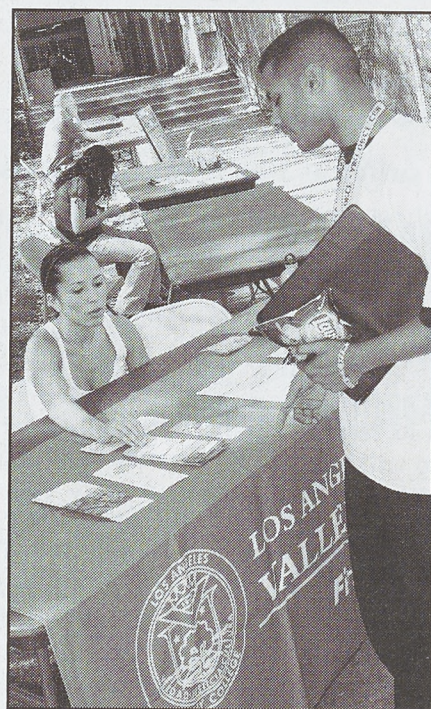
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On Campus

No Stamp Required for Club Day

■ Barbecue aroma leads students to Monarch Square.



JOHN CAMARENA / VALLEY STAR

HELPING HAND ON CLUB DAY - Volunteer Aimee Lem assists a student by explaining the different types of financial aid available on campus.

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

The sweet and spicy aromas of barbecue led students to decorated Day of the Dead booths in Monarch Square Oct. 28 for club day at Valley College.

Clubs such as the Armenian Student Association, Pre-medical Engineers Science Scholars Association, Lesbian Gay Bi Transgender and Questioning club and the Philosophy Club set up booths hoping students would become involved with the club, campus or community.

The Culinary Club had a Korean barbecue roaring, along with some side dishes and drinks. The new club has been active for a month and has been able to gather 13 members in that short span of time.

"The students love our food, but it's unfortunate that students don't have the money, but we understand," said Ben Moye, member of the Culinary Club.

Le Club Francais attracted students with their music and loud shouts of "Fifty cents for a soda or a donut!"

"There's so many great clubs," said Vice President of Le Club Francais, Muhammad Tabache. "It's been good student cooperation and competition, but that's the spirit."

Their table was filled with fliers, food and coffee donated by Starbucks. Le Club Francais raises funds to support their activities and hope to soon apply the money towards scholarships and a newsletter.

Alongside was the Child Development Club in a decorated booth with posters and children's books explaining Day of the Dead. A club member in a bumblebee costume wandered around the table, standing out from the students in their street clothes. Child

Development club members participate in fundraising walks to raise money for finding cures for childhood diseases. Most members of the club are pursuing a degree in the fields of education or child psychology, but all students are welcome.

"We try to raise awareness on what our kids are learning these days," said Pearl Newton, president of the club.

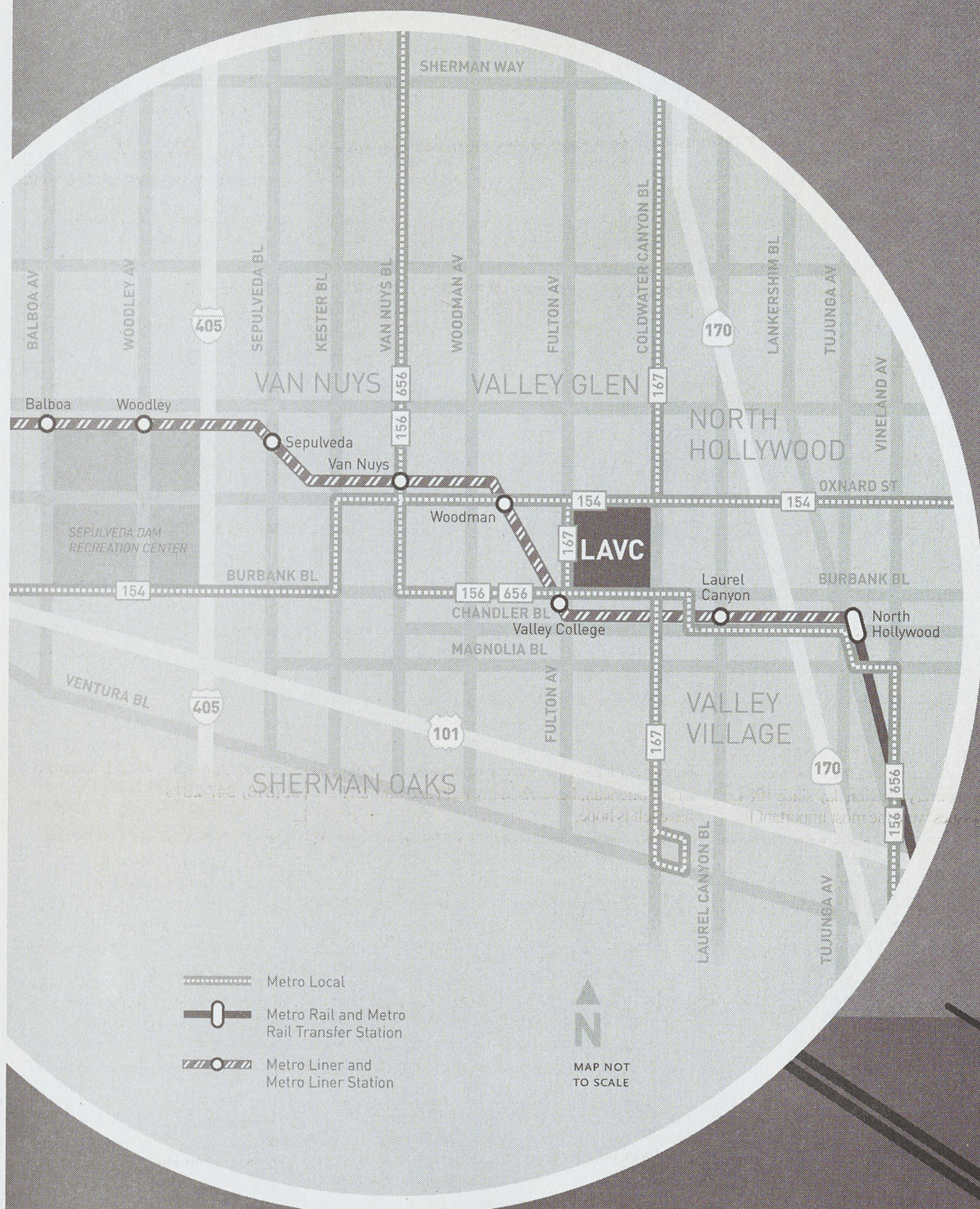
A student organization that reaches out to the community is the Trio Insite Club. The money they collect through fundraising goes directly into the community, not back to their club. Last year during the holidays they had students sign greeting cards and send them to troops in Iraq, something that they plan to repeat this year. They will also donate toys to an elementary school with a large number of disabled children and will give canned goods to a local food bank.

"We're not just a campus club, we are a part of the community," said club Trio Insite president, Carolyn Warner. "A club is about unity."

Students can find additional information for these clubs, and others, by going to the Associated Student Union office, located in Campus Center 102.

metro.net

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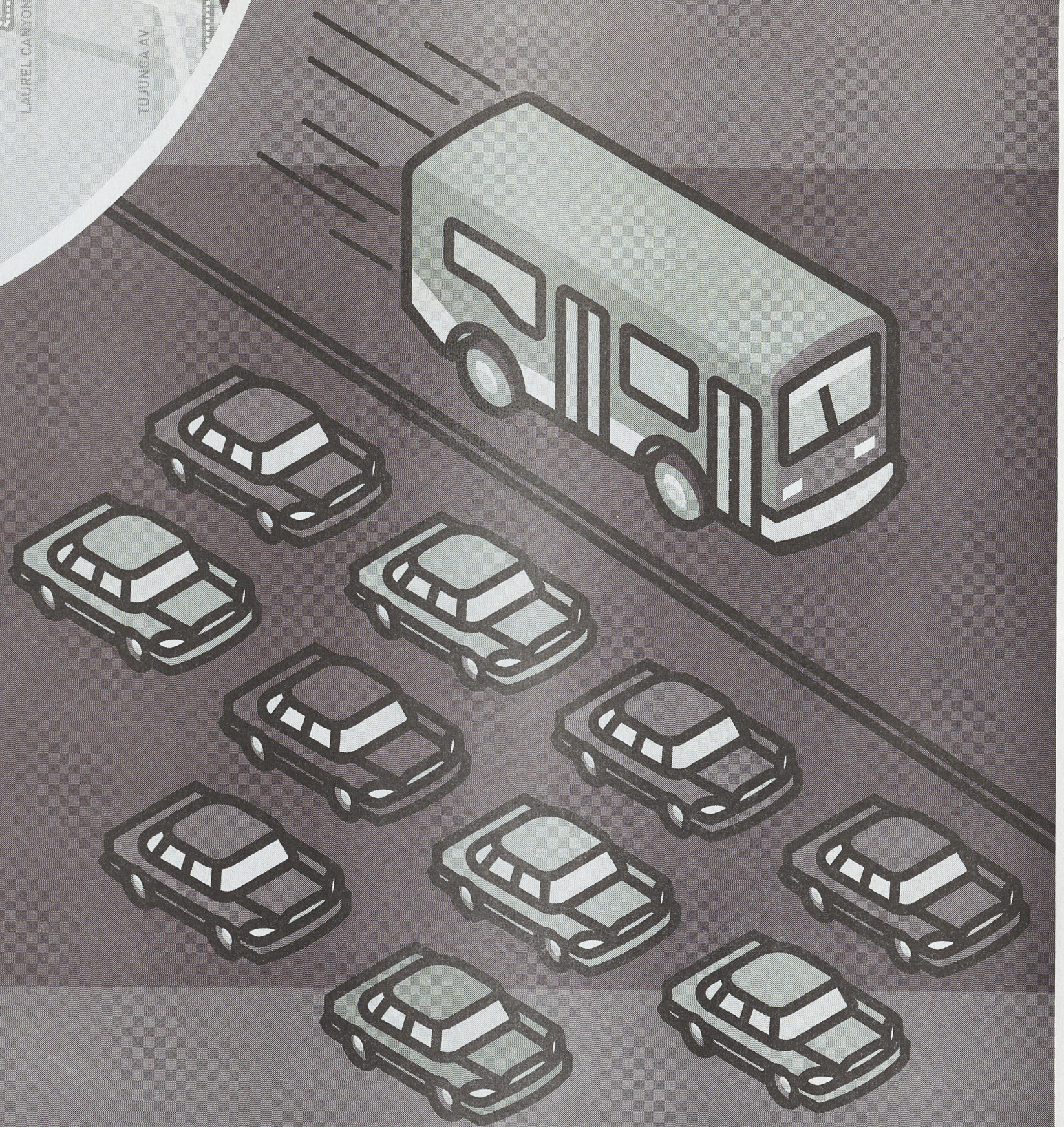
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Valley Monarchs Trounce Brahmas, No Bull

By Sharon Hardwick
Staff Writer

Afternoon rain kept the crowds away but did nothing to dampen the fighting spirit of the Valley College Monarchs, who won 50-13 Saturday night against decades old valley rival Pierce College, moving them closer to a Western State Conference title. The win was their fourth straight, and gives them a 4-1 record in the conference and puts them 5-3 overall.

Valley started strong with wide receiver Gerald Scarber scoring a touchdown in the first five minutes. Less than a minute later, Scarber ran 96 yards to score a second TD and move the score 14-0.

"It's incredible," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "They're really doing great. I wanted to make sure I made it to at least one game, and this is a good one."

"We've wavered sometimes, but we want this team that played tonight to show up every game...Our focus is now the conference"
- Valley Offensive Line Coach Anthony Bray

In the second quarter, safety Wayne Shephard came in for an interception, stopping a Pierce drive and setting up a Valley touchdown by running back James Walker. What might have been a turning point in any other game, became an example of what is possible when the Monarchs stay focused. By the end of the first half, Valley was up 47-6.

"We're doing awesome," said Running Back Coach Louis Jones at the half. "[If anything] we need to refine the basics of our technique. We need to keep it simple."

The Brahmas, on the other hand, headed into the locker room in the shadow of a 47-6 score in bright yellow lights.

"We are very inconsistent," said Pierce strength and conditioning coach Steve Ruys. "We've been inconsistent through the season. We got down really quick at the beginning. If they can get to the locker room and rally the troops, maybe they can come back."

However, what words were spoken in the locker room had no effect on the Brahmas.

Although Pierce managed to score on Valley twice, the Monarchs headed into the fourth quarter with a 44 point lead. Even so, the Valley players did not let up.

"We don't quit," said defensive lineman Mark Matthews. "We stay strong until the end. We are kings!"

Gathering on the sidelines, the whole team chanted "Get your fours up!"

The focus and the 'fours' paid off, with Valley walking away with a 50-13 win over their rival.

"We played a really great game," said Offensive Line Coach Anthony Bray. "We've wavered sometimes, but we want this team that played tonight to show up every game. We haven't had a conference in four years. Our focus now is the conference."

After Pierce players left the field and the stadium seats were all but empty, Coach Jimmy Sims rallied the team on the field for a pep talk and reminded his team to stay focused for the Santa Barbara game on Saturday at 6 p.m..

"I have a young team...Most of these guys are freshman and sophomores. But these young men have gelled together," he said. "We do need to keep some emotions down [because] we still have more to do to keep things going. We need to take it one game at a time. [Right now] we got to take care of Santa Barbara."



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
MONARCHS PUNISH PIERCE - Monarch wide receiver Matt Johnson scores the first touchdown of the game against Pierce College at home Saturday night. The Monarchs went on to beat Pierce 50-13.

SPORTS
REPORT

FOOTBALL
PACIFIC
CONFERENCE

| COLLEGE | PC | ALL |
|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Antelope Valley | 5-0 | 5-3 |
| Valley | 4-1 | 5-3 |
| Santa Barbara | 4-1 | 4-4 |
| West L.A. | 2-3 | 3-4 |
| Pierce | 2-3 | 2-6 |
| Southwest | 1-4 | 1-7 |
| Santa Monica | 1-4 | 1-7 |
| East L.A. | 1-4 | 1-7 |

WATER POLO
WESTERN STATE
CONFERENCE
MEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| Ventura | 4-0 | 13-8 |
| Cuesta | 3-1 | 17-12 |
| Valley | 2-2 | 13-13 |
| Citrus | 1-3 | 11-17 |
| Santa Monica | 0-4 | 2-17 |

WOMEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| Valley | 3-1 | 18-7 |
| Ventura | 3-1 | 14-9 |
| Citrus | 3-1 | 11-11 |
| Cuesta | 1-3 | 11-20 |
| Santa Monica | 0-4 | 1-25 |

SOCCER
WESTERN STATE
CONFERENCE
SOUTH
WOMEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|--------------|-------|--------|
| Pierce | 9-0-1 | 15-2-3 |
| Bakersfield | 7-1-2 | 11-4-3 |
| Santa Monica | 6-2-2 | 10-2-5 |
| Glendale | 4-4-2 | 7-7-4 |
| Citrus | 3-7 | 7-11-2 |
| Canyons | 3-7 | 4-15 |
| Mission | 2-7-1 | 5-12-1 |
| Valley | 2-8 | 4-13-2 |



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
SCORING MACHINE - Lady Monarch top scorer Lybov Tchougounova unleashes the first of four goals that makes it to the back of the Orange Coast College net.

Water Polo Split at Pasadena

By Scott Mitchell
Chief Photographer

The Valley College Women's water polo team had mixed results during the Pasadena Mini Tournament held at Pasadena City College Friday. Golden West College handed the Monarchs a 7-2 defeat in their first match but the green and gold bounced back to trump their second opponent of the day, Orange Coast College, with an 11-7 win.

Sophomore Monarch Felicia Orozco scored Valley's only two goals in game one. Head Coach Michael Santo attributed the loss to not having his full squad to select from, with top scorer Lybov Tchougounova missing from the tournament. Tchougounova was forced to sit out the match as a result of being red carded for disrespecting an umpire in a previous game.

"We played well the first half, we were only down 0-2. Then, in the third quarter, we got a little tired and we probably made more mistakes in the third quarter than we did in the first half," he said. "Consequently, they went up 5-0 before we even scored our first goal. The last quarter was basically an even up quarter, 2-2."

With clouds shielding the players from

the sun and Tchougounova back in the pool, Orange Coast College proved to be no match for the Monarchs. Orozco and Tchougounova scored the first goals of the match, ending the first quarter with the Monarchs leading 2-1.

After a productive second period, Valley was up 6-3 at the half. Tchougounova proved why she is the highest-ranked scorer in the Western State Conference, starting the second half with a no-look, over the shoulder goal from 10 feet out. Orozco scored her fourth goal in the last seconds of the third period, giving Valley 10-4 lead going into the last.

"The team played great today. They work really well together and when they do good they do so good," said Maggie Orozco, mother of Felicia Orozco. "They have a very strong bond."

Goalkeeper LaChee Singleton ended the game with seven saves. Tchougounova and Orozco rounded out the match with four goals apiece and Amanda Thompson, Liliana Gomez, and Arda Aghyarian each scored one.

"It was nice to have number three [Tchougounova] in the water, other than that it was nice to win again," said Santo after the game.

SPORTS OPINION

Sun Sets on Season '08

By Joe LaFleur
Staff Writer

Major League Baseball has closed for fall and winter, only to reopen again in the spring. When the winds begin to blow cold, the days seem darker, and the rain and snow start to fall, the game is not the same. Unlike football, baseball is a summer game, played when the sun shines and the grass, not the artificial turf, is green.

As much as it hurts to see the season end, there is an overall relief that this one has passed. It was a season full of surprises which brought out the best, but mostly the worst in the game. Baseball is supposed to be a game of hope, but this year, fans were exposed to its desperation.

When the season began last spring, fans were optimistic with the variations from the previous year. Joe Torre was no longer a New York Yankee; he was a Los Angeles Dodger and brought that Yankee swagger to the west coast. The worst team in baseball last season dropped the word "Devil" from their name and were going simply by the Tampa Bay Rays. Manny Ramirez was happy with the Boston Red Sox, and C.C. Sabathia and Indians fans thought they had a good thing going.

Since that first pitch of the season, managers were fired, trades were made, the Yankees failed to make the playoffs. We saw that loyalty is a rare thing when it comes to players and their teams, and that money dictates everything. Great players like Manny Ramirez turned into whiners who couldn't stand a few boos from the crowds and demanded to be traded.

The one highlight was watching this year's Cinderella team, the Tampa Bay Rays, win the American League Championship and play in the World Series for the first time in franchise history. The tragedy is that this time, Goliath defeated David. The Rays lost to the Philadelphia Phillies, a team whose salary is more than double that of the Rays.

The 2008 season can be summed up as a disappointment, as can the World Series - a five game joke that included an unheard of two-part fifth game. The season was a six-month build up with an anticlimactic payoff that left everyone but Phillies fans wondering what just happened and how to get their money back. When Phillies' closer, Brad Lidge, struck out the final Rays' batter in the three and one half inning follow up to game five, the season was over and for the first time in my life, I wasn't sorry to see it go.

Goalie Garcia Helps Monarchs Win One

■ The Valley College soccer team have split results against College of the Canyons and Bakersfield, leaving them at 4-13-2.

By Harry Gore
Staff Writer

Valley College defeated the College of the Canyons Cougars 3-1 on Tuesday behind the play of goalkeeper Myra Garcia and an all-out team effort.

Valley forward Lucia Tobar scored the first goal of the game on a high arching shot that went over the head of the Cougars goalie. Tobar believes the assist should go to Mother Nature.

"It was nice to score a goal," she said. "I think the sun was helpful because the sun was in their eyes in the first half."

The game remained 1-0 well into the second half, although there were numerous scoring opportunities for both sides. Canyons was thwarted on a free kick and a close chance following a corner kick, and a shot by the Canyons' Merritt Kent glanced off the crossbar. Valley's Rosa Maria Castillo had two scoring chances but Cougars goalie Danielle Michel came up with the saves.

The Cougars looked ready to tie the game at one when they were awarded a penalty kick, after Kimberly Plancarte was taken down in the box by Monica Vargas. Valley

keeper Myra Garcia made the best of her 14 saves on the shot and lit a spark underneath the Lady Monarchs.

"When she was stepping into the box to take the penalty I was thinking I just can't let them score and tie the game," said Garcia. "I got the save and then the team was motivated to step up and score more goals."

The Lady Monarchs picked up their intensity and overpowered Canyons for the remainder of the game. Monica Vargas made up for the earlier penalty against her with a beautiful 30-yard goal on a free kick to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Less than a minute later, Maricela Quintanilla scored after fighting through defenders to put away a ball that had bounced off of the crossbar.

College of the Canyons put one across late in the game to make the score 3-1, but it was too little, too late.

The Lady Monarchs' second game of the week didn't go as well, as the Bakersfield College Renegades handed them a 2-1 defeat on Friday.

Valley scored the first goal of the game on fluke play, when Candice Schlecht of Bakersfield knocked the ball out of her goalie's hands and into the net. Schlecht, perhaps feeling a need to redeem herself, went on to



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
GET PHYSICAL - A Valley College player makes her opponent from Bakersfield College work during the game at Monarch Stadium Friday afternoon. The Monarchs went on to lose 2-1.

score two goals and she earned a yellow card for aggressive play.

"After they scored on us first, I accidentally hit it in, coach told us not to freak out, don't try to just kick it, play our game with intensity," said Schlecht.

The loss snapped the Lady Monarchs' two-game home winning streak, but head coach Shane Watkins

likes how the team is playing.

"The group that we have out there now has been playing together for three games straight with no changes due to injuries and I feel like they're starting to gel," said Watkins. "It's gonna be hard to make some decisions [about playing time] when people start coming back from injuries."